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10/15/61 7 AM UT

8794

OCTOBER 14, 1961

2:45 AM

EUR
Info

FROM: PARIS - CORRECTED COPY

TO: Secretary of State

NO: POLTO 482, OCTOBER 13, 9

Downgraded To: SECRET CONFIDENTIAL

EO 11652: XGDS 2 4

Authorized By: H. D. Brewster

August 4, 1975

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FOR THE SECRETARY

IN REPLY TO YOUR TOPOL 531, IN WHICH YOU REFLECT YOUR CONCERN AT RATE OF PROGRESS ON INSTRUCTIONS TO NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES ON BERLIN CONTINGENCY PLANNING, LET ME FIRST SAY WE HAVE REPORTED ALL MEETINGS FULLY. OUR LAST REPORT, OF THE OCT 4 MEETING THE LATEST WHICH DEALT WITH THIS SUBJECT, IS POLTO A-496. IN VIEW LENGTH OF DISCUSSION AND FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES RAISED AND STRONG DEPARTMENTAL INJUNCTIONS TO USE TELEGRAPHIC REPORTING SPARINGLY, DETAILED REPORT WAS SUBMITTED BY A-GRAM RATHER THAN TELEGRAM. IN VIEW YOUR INTEREST WILL SUBMIT FUTURE REPORTS BY TELEGRAPH.

THINK YOU DO NAC SOMEWHAT OF AN INJUSTICE WITH REGARD TO TIME IT HAS TAKEN TO DEAL WITH THESE PROBLEMS. PAPERS WERE CIRCULATED TO NAC ONLY SEPTEMBER 27, AND THEY RAISE SUFFICIENTLY COMPLEX PROBLEMS TO REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE STUDY BY GOVERNMENTS. IN VIEW FACT ONLY SIX DAYS ELAPSED BETWEEN SUBMISSION AND FIRST NAC DISCUSSIONS, THEY SO FAR HAVE BEEN ON PERSONAL BASIS, BUT NEXT TUESDAY WE SHALL GET DOWN TO DISCUSSING ON BASIS OF GOVERNMENTAL POSITIONS. DISCUSSIONS ON PERSONAL BASIS HAVE MADE GREAT DEAL OF PROGRESS AND I DO HOPE YOU WILL NOT DISCOUNT TOO MUCH THE HELPFULNESS OF THESE PERSONAL BASIS DISCUSSIONS. VERY OFTEN THEY HAVE CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO A GOVERNMENTAL POSITION FAVORABLE TO WHAT WE WANT.

I HOPE OUR REPORTS HAVE REFLECTED FACT THAT ALLIES FULLY REALIZE THAT INSTRUCTIONS ON PLANNING, WHILE NOT A COMMITMENT

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-2- POLTO 482, OCTOBER 13, 9 PM, FROM PARIS

TO IMPLEMENT, SET THE COURSE FOR DECISIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION. THIS IS SOMETHING WHICH AFFECTED US AND FOUR POWER THINKING IN ITS CAREFUL AND LENGTHY DEVELOPMENT OF FIRST DRAFT OF INSTRUCTIONS, AND IS EQUALLY A CONSIDERATION FOR THE OTHERS.

IN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE HAD, I THINK WE HAVE DONE PRETTY WELL.

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OTHER POINTS OF CONCERN HAVE ALSO BEEN DEALT WITH IN A WAY THAT APPARENTLY LETS PERM REPS RESPOND TO PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS THEIR GOVERNMENTS MAY HAVE HAD. I DO NOT THINK I AM OVER-OPTIMISTIC IN THINKING WE WILL FIND A BASIS FOR RESOLUTION OF MOST OF THESE, AS REFLECTED IN PO/61/75, THE SECRETARIAT SUMMARY OF OUR WORK.

I HAVE SEEN STIKKER AND HE HAS AGREED TO TAKE THE LEAD TO RESERVE FOR LATER CLARIFICATION THE QUESTION OF HOW DECISIONS WILL BE TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT PLANS AND TO TRY TO GET THE DIRECTIVE ISSUED ON THAT BASIS TUESDAY. THE QUESTION OF IMPLEMENTATION WILL ARISE AGAIN WHEN WE GET NORSTAD'S PLANS BEFORE US, WHICH SHOULD BE VERY SHORTLY AFTER HE RECEIVES THE DIRECTIVE, SINCE HE HAS BEEN WORKING ON PERTINENT PLANS FOR WEEKS WITHOUT SPECIFIC NAC DIRECTIVE SO THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY LOST TIME ON BERLIN CONTINGENCY PLANNING. IT WAS ALMOST FOREGONE CONCLUSION THAT THE DIRECTIVE, WHICH IN FOUR PLACES RAISES QUESTION OF POLITICAL AUTHORITY, SHOULD HAVE LED TO QUESTIONS ARISING ON THIS SCORE. STIKKER SAYS THAT, EXAMPLE, IN ROME HE FOUND SENGI, FANKENI AND GRONCHI ALL KEENLY ALERT TO IMPLICATIONS OF THESE FOUR POINTS IN DRAFT DIRECTIVE.

I THINK WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO MOVE RELATIVELY SPEEDILY ON THIS NOW. I AM CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO ATTEMPT TO PRESSURE THE DIRECTIVE THROUGH

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-3- POLTO 482, OCTOBER 13, 1942

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THE COUNCIL, AS PEOPLE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY THINK THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING INVOLVED THAT THEY HAD NOT SEEN BEFORE, AND THE RESULTS OF DOING SO AT THIS STAGE WOULD RESULT IN FURTHER DELAY RATHER THAN SPEEDING UP THE PROCESS. SEVERAL NAC MEMBERS KNOW AND HAVE COMMENTED ON HOW LONG IT TOOK FOUR AND STIKKER TO REACH AGREEMENT ON DRAFT DIRECTIVES AND INSIST THEY CANNOT BE ASKED TO GIVE DEFINITIVE REPLIES FASTER THAN THE FOUR. I THINK WE CAN GIVE A SENSE OF URGENCY TO THIS HERE, AND OBTAIN REAL PROGRESS. MUCH THOUGH I WOULD ENJOY HAVING THE HELP OF MY GOOD FRIEND ROS GILPATRIC, I DO THINK THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO USE SUCH HEAVY ARTILLERY AT THIS TIME. STIKKER STRONGLY AGREES.

I THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT WE TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT WHERE WE STAND AT THE END OF NEXT WEEK IN LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS.

FINLETTER

RJT

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